

After just a few months in Congress it became clear that our staff was missing something; or, more accurately, someone. The residents of the Ninth needed someone with a background in State Department issues. The job would be part-time and—like all case-worker positions—required a genuine passion for helping others.

At the time, Ruth Clapp was enjoying the early days of her retirement after years spent working for the World Association for Children and Parents (WACAP), an adoption and international humanitarian organization. During her time with WACAP, Ruth helped families to navigate adoptions in countries around the world. The work was rewarding, yet it was time to enjoy some well-earned quiet days at her picturesque home along the water in Browns Point. And that was when the phone rang.

On the other end was a young Chief of Staff. He let Ruth know about a freshman Member of Washington State's delegation that required someone with her background. The job could be tailored to her needs: it would be part-time and only for a few years. She accepted the position and, as we know now, that "temporary" job stretched into seventeen years of service.

Ruth's personnel file grew and grew over the years, into what today resembles a stack of phone books. It is filled with hundreds of letters thanking her for help with issues including immigration, adoptions, and visas. These notes are from mothers, fathers, grandmothers, sons, and daughters. They recount Ruth creatively solving problems and demonstrate the consistency by which she went the extra mile for constituents. If getting a problem solved meant calling a consulate at 4 am on behalf of a constituent, that was what she did—gladly and without complaint.

Ruth's accomplishments are too many to list. Highlights include the critical assistance she provided an entire Afghan family to become U.S. citizens. She is passionate about conditions at the Northwest Detention Center and has provided assistance to dozens of inmates there. Travel up and down the Ninth District and chances are you will meet someone whose life has benefited from Ruth's service.

In the years ahead, Ruth undoubtedly will stay busy. She remains passionate about international adoption, loves world travel, serves on the board of a non-profit, and is a proud grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Ruth Clapp for her distinguished career. I am confident that others will continue to benefit from her selflessness.

#### HONORING WILLIAM MACALONEY

#### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects to William "Bill" MacAloney, the Chairman and CEO of Jax Markets in Anaheim, California. Bill who is a long-time friend of mine recently passed after a long and brave struggle with cancer.

Bill's successful journey to becoming an industry leader in the grocery store business

started in a very humble way. He grew up in a succession of orphanages and foster homes in Massachusetts. At the age of 16, Bill hit the road, hitch hiking all the way to California, arriving in Los Angeles with little money and no place to stay.

With a great attitude, hard work and a "can do" spirit, Bill nudged his way into the food industry and opened up his first grocery store in the late 1960's. Several other stores followed under the Jax banner, one in Buena Park and another in Anaheim.

During his career in the supermarket industry which spanned more than four decades, Bill MacAloney was Chairman of the nation's largest retail business, Certified Grocer of California. He also served as Chairman of the California Grocery Association and was Co-Chair of the Food Marketing Institute (FMI), the national supermarket trade association headquartered in our Nation's Capital.

With a love for politics and community, Bill MacAloney served on the Villa Park City Council in 2002 and 2009. And Bill was an active philanthropist, and received awards and recognition from a wide range of highly respected organizations including the National Conference of Christians and Jews and B'nai B'rith among others. I should also mention that Bill was appointed to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Board of Accountancy and was on the St. Joseph Hospital Board of Trustees.

In closing, it has been an honor and a privilege for me to have known such an outstanding individual. He is a true gentleman, of great character who made the time to give back to the community and help others to achieve their dreams. Bill MacAloney is truly the classic All-American success story that we all should be proud of. I extend my sympathies to Bill's wife and loving companion of 45 years, Gwen, her four children, ten grandchildren and two great granddaughters.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,494,957,564,945.40. We've added \$6,868,080,516,032.40 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR FRANK A. GRIPPE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Frankfort, New York's own Command Ser-

geant Major Frank A. Grippe, United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and selfless service to the United States of America. Command Sergeant Major Grippe will soon retire from his present assignment as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader, United States Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida.

Command Sergeant Major Grippe entered the United States Army in April 1981 through Syracuse, New York. He trained as a light infantryman and graduated from Airborne School at Fort Henning, Georgia, after which he went on to serve in a variety of duty positions and organizations: Rifleman, Machinegunner and Team Leader in 1-509th Airborne Battalion Combat Team, Vicenza, Italy; Team Leader, Rifle Squad Leader and Reconnaissance Squad Leader in 2-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Rifle Squad Leader, Rifle Platoon Sergeant, Battalion Operations Sergeant and Company First Sergeant with 2-75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Washington; ROTC Senior Military Instructor at San Diego State University, San Diego, California; Command Sergeant Major for 1-87th Infantry Regiment, Fort Drum, New York, CSM of Task Force Summit (OEF Afghanistan, September 2001–April 2002); Command Sergeant Major for 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI), Fort Drum, New York, CSM of Combined Joint Task Force Warrior (OEF Afghanistan, July 2003–May 2004); Post and Division Command Sergeant Major of the 101st Airborne Division (AASLT) and Fort Campbell, Kentucky, CSM of Task Force Band of Brothers; Multi-National Division North (OIF, September 2005–September 2006). From August 2007 December 2011, he was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major of I Corps and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and served as the Multi-National Corps-Iraq Command Sergeant Major from March 2009 to March 2010. Command Sergeant Major Grippe is presently the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for the United States Central Command.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Command Sergeant Major Grippe's long and decorated career. On behalf of a grateful nation, I commend Command Sergeant Major Grippe for his dedicated service to the United States of America. I also wish to recognize the sacrifices and contributions made by Command Sergeant Major Grippe's wife Carla and daughter Madeline. We are a nation truly indebted to all of the service members, veterans, and military families who continue to give so much to defend our American values and liberties. I extend my best wishes to Command Sergeant Major Grippe and his family on the occasion of his retirement.

#### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART

#### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 29, 2014*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, which will be celebrated with a series of public programs and exhibits.